

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 were pending in this application. In the final Office action mailed June 16, 2010, the Office rejects all of the claims either for lacking novelty or for being obvious in view of U.S. patent 5,062,908 ("the Purnell et al. patent").

In this response, the Applicants amend the claims to overcome these rejections and provide remarks indicating why the amended claim set is patentable over the art of record. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims 18-26 as presented above.

Telephonic Interview

The Applicants thank the examiner for the telephonic interview of August 24, 2010. In this interview, Examiner Zhu for the Office and Attorneys Ark and Franzini for the Applicants discussed the pending claim set, the final Office action, the Purnell et al. patent, and types of amendments that might be made to overcome the rejections of record. At the close of the interview, it was agreed upon that the Applicants would provide Examiner Zhu with proposed claim language for further consideration. The Applicants subsequently offered claim language to Examiner Zhu and he agreed that the proposed amendments, which are now made in this response, would differentiate the claims from the Purnell et al. patent. He indicated, however, that a further search may be necessary before allowing the claims.

Amendments to the Claims

The Applicants amend independent claim 18 to further require that the engagement of the locating element of the infiltrant blank and the corresponding locating element of the compact restrict movement of the infiltrant blank relative to

the compact. For the reasons stated below, this new claim language patentably distinguishes the claimed invention from the art of record.

The Applicants also cancel claims 1-17. The cancellation of these claims is made to reduce the number of claims under consideration, does not bear on the patentable nature of the cancelled claims, and is made without prejudice.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Because the Applicants cancel claims 1-17, the only claims currently under examination that were rejected in the final Office action are independent claim 18 and dependent claims 19-22. In the final Office action, those claims were rejected as being unpatentable over the Purnell et al. patent.

In view of the amendments to independent claim 18, however, the rejections of claims 18-22 have been overcome. Each and every element found in the amended independent claim 18 is not taught by the Purnell et al. patent and, further, those missing claim elements would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The amended claim 18 now requires the engagement of the locating element of the infiltrant blank and the corresponding locating element of the compact to restrict movement of the infiltrant blank relative to the compact. As agreed upon by the Examiner, this claim limitation is not found in the Purnell et al. patent. As this claimed element is missing, the rolled strip of the Purnell et al. patent could potentially move off of the inner diameter surface to be infiltrated during handling of the part. Looking at FIG. 2 of the Applicants' application, and in particular comparing of the second and third rows, it can be seen how the claimed structure provides for more accurate and

precise infiltration of a compact by restricting the movement of the infiltrant blank relative to the compact.

Accordingly, the rejections of claims 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the Purnell et al. patent have been overcome and should be withdrawn by the Office.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. However, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if doing so would expedite the allowance of this application.

The undersigned authorizes payment of \$810 for the Request for Continued Examination from Deposit Account No. 17-0055. No other fees are believed to be due at this time. However, in the event that any fees are due, including fees for an extension of time or for the presentation of excess claims, then please charge these fees to Deposit Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

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